

Wentworth Hall
Dartmouth College Campus
Hanover
Grafton County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-71

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WENTWORTH HALL

Location: Dartmouth College Campus, Hanover, Grafton County,
New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Dartmouth College.

Present Occupant: Dartmouth College.

Present Use: College classrooms and offices.

Brief Statement
of Significance:

Wentworth Hall, with Thornton Hall which was built as part of the same project and is very similar, are the two oldest buildings surviving at Dartmouth. They were designed by Ammi B. Young and, as illustrative of his early style, are typically early nineteenth century collegiate in their massing and fenestration with some Greek Revival influence observable in the detail.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Dartmouth College.
2. Date of erection: Architect selected in 1827, building completed in 1828.
3. Architect, construction overseers: Ammi Burnham Young (1798-1874), architect. Dartmouth professors Chamberlain and Hale, construction overseers.
4. The building is named for John Wentworth, New Hampshire Governor and benefactor of the college during its early days when Dartmouth was still under Eleazar Wheelock, the founder and first president.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The building served as a dormitory until 1871. Since that time it has served various uses requiring various alterations. The building underwent major interior remodelling in 1912. The exterior remains largely unchanged.

6. References

- a. R. L. Kenney, The History of Wentworth and Thornton Halls (Student Thesis in Carpenter Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, 1935).
- b. Osmund R. Overby, "Ammi B. Young in the Connecticut Valley," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. XIX, no. 3 (October, 1960), pp. 119-123.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The building is typical of early nineteenth century collegiate building in its massing and fenestration with some Greek Revival influence observable in the detail. The interior has been completely remodelled at various times, but the exterior largely retains the original design.
2. Condition of Fabric: The building is sound and well maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular building, three stories plus cellar, 50' x 70'.
2. Foundations: Large blocks of cut granite.
3. Wall construction: Brick walls painted white.
4. Stoops: Entrance stoops are large blocks of cut granite.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Principal entrance on long side, paneled door with side and transom lights set in simple, granite doorway.
 - b. Windows and shutters: 6/6 light, double hung windows, granite sills and lintels. Fixed slat shutters.

6. Roof

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with horizontal cornice carried across one gable end to describe pediment but simply returned a short distance on the other end. Secondary gable introduced on one long side over entrance door. Horizontal cornice along eave of main roof continues uninterrupted to form raking cornice of secondary gable. Sheet metal covering on entire roof.

b. Cornice, eaves: Similar horizontal and raking cornices, simple moulded trim, Greek profiles.

C. Technical Description of Interiors: The entire interior has been rebuilt at various times, the last major interior re-modelling was in 1912.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: This building is one of a group of buildings that are situated on a slight rise east of the Hanover Common.

2. Walks: Modern concrete walks.

3. Landscaping: Informal with lawn and large trees.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards and
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